[2nd August 1933

Agriculture

Result of the enquiry by the Government into the slump in the price of rice.

* 85 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the result of the enquiries made by the Government regarding the slump in the price of rice in this Presidency?

A.—It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the report of the Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies who was deputed to Tanjore to investigate and report on the improvement of marketing facilities for rice from the Tanjore district. At the instance of the Local Government, the South Indian Railway has reduced the freight rates to Ceylon as a trial measure for six months till 9th October 1933. Intra-provincial rates for distances over 175 miles have also been reduced. The other matters connected with the report are under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" May I know whether any enquiry has been made in regard to the slump in the price of rice in the Presidency? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I want notice."

Prevalence of coconut pest in South Kanara.

* 86 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the coconut pest is now prevalent in South Kanara and, if so, in which places; and

(*b*) what action the Government are taking in this matter?

A.—(*a*) The coconut pest is prevalent in a mild form along the coast. In a few villages of the Mangalore, Udipi and Coondapoor taluks a fair amount of damage was noticed before the rains. During the monsoon, the pest is reported to subside to a great extent.

(*b*) In May last the Government Entomologist visited several centres in the district and the Deputy Director the badly affected area in Mangalore and they advised garden owners to cut and burn the affected leaves. The local demonstrators are carrying on propaganda work for cutting affected leaves.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" Besides the carrying on of propaganda do the Government propose to take any action to stop the coconut pest in South Kanara? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" For the time being no other action."